

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Embodiments of a system and method using message authentication with message
5 gates are described. A message gate is the message endpoint for a client or service in a
distributed computing environment. A message gate may provide a secure endpoint that
sends and receives type-safe messages. Gates may perform the sending and receiving of
messages between clients and services using a protocol specified in a service
advertisement. In one embodiment, the messages are eXtensible Markup Language
10 (XML) messages. For a client, a message gate represents the authority to use some or all
of a service's capabilities. Each capability may be expressed in terms of a message that
may be sent to the service. Creation of a message gate may involve an authentication
service that may authenticate the client and/or service and that generates an authentication
credential. A message gate may perform verification of messages against a message
15 schema to ensure that the messages are allowed. Message gates may embed the
authentication credential in outgoing messages so that the receiving message gate may
authenticate the message. Messages may also include information to allow the receiving
gate to verify that the message has not been compromised prior to receipt.

20